

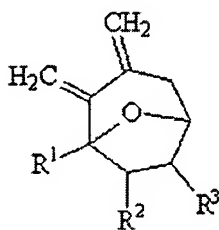
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled).

9. (Currently amended) A 7-membered carbocyclic compound with diexomethylene groups having the formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom, a C_1 to C_6 alkyl group or a phenyl group, and R^2 and R^3 is each a hydrogen atom, or R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are connected with neighboring substituents to form a 5 to 10 -membered aliphatic or aromatic ring.

10. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 9, wherein R^1 is C_1 to C_3 alkyl, and each of R^2 and R^3 is a hydrogen atom.

11. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 9, wherein R^1 and R^2 are connected with each other to form a 5 to 10-membered aliphatic or aromatic ring, and R^3 is a hydrogen atom.

12. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 9, wherein R^2 and R^3 are connected with each other to form a 5 to 10-membered aliphatic or aromatic ring, and R^1 is a hydrogen atom.

13. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 10, wherein R^1 is methyl.

14. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 9, wherein R^1 is phenyl, and each of R^2 and R^3 are hydrogen.

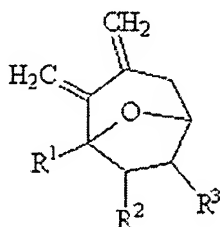
15. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 12, wherein R^2 and R^3 are connected with each other to form a phenyl group.

16. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 11, wherein R^1 and R^2 are connected with each other to form a cyclopentyl group.

17. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 11, wherein R^1 and R^2 are connected with each other to form a cyclohexyl group.

18. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 11, herein R¹ and R² are connected with each other to form a cycloheptyl group.
19. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 9, which is 1-methyl-2,3-dimethylene-8-oxa-bicyclo[3.2.1]octane.
20. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 9, which is 2,3-dimethylene-1-phenyl-8-oxa-bicyclo[3.2.1]octane.
21. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 9, which is 9,10-dimethylene-12-oxa-tricyclo[6.3.1.0^{2,7}]dodeca-2,3,5-triene.
22. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 9, which is 9,10-dimethylene-11-oxa-tricyclo [5.3.1.0^{1,5}]undecane.
23. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 9, which is 10,11-dimethylene-12-oxa-tricyclo[6.3.1.0^{1,6}]dodecane.
24. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 9, which is 11,12-dimethylene-13-oxa-tricyclo[7.3.1.0^{1,7}] tridecane.

25. (Currently amended) A method of synthesizing a 7-membered carbocyclic compound with diexomethylene groups, and having the formula (I), which comprises reacting a trimethylsilylmethyl-allenol compound by intramolecular Prins cyclization in the presence of a Lewis acid:



(I)

wherein R¹ is a hydrogen atom, C₁ to C₆ alkyl group or a phenyl group, and R² and R³ is each a hydrogen atom, or R¹, R² and R³ are connected with neighboring substituents to form a 5 to 10-membered aliphatic or aromatic ring.

26. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the reaction is conducted in a solvent selected from the group consisting of diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran, dichloromethane and chloroform.

27. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein said Lewis acid is trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (TMSOTf) and is used in an amount of 1.0 to 1.5 equivalent of said trimethylsilylmethyl-allenol compound.

28. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the reaction is effected at a temperature in the range from -90°C to 25°C.

29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the reaction is effected at -78°C.

30. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein the solvent is diethyl ether.

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the reaction is effected for 3 to 5 hours.

32. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the 7-membered carbocyclic compound is 1-methyl-2,3-dimethylene-8-oxa-bicyclo[3.2.1]octane.

33. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, herein the 7-membered carbocyclic compound is 2,3-dimethylene-1-phenyl-8-oxa-bicyclo[3.2.1]octane.

34. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the 7-membered carbocyclic compound is 9,10-dimethylene-12-oxa-tricyclo[6.3.1.0^{2,7}]dodeca-2,3,5-triene.

35. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the 7-membered carbocyclic compound is 9,10-dimethylene-11-oxa-tricyclo[5.3.1.0^{1,5}]undecane.

36. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the 7-membered carbocyclic compound is 10,11-dimethylene-12-oxa-tricyclo[6.3.1.0^{1,6}]dodecane.

37. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the 7-membered carbocyclic compound is 11,12-dimethylene-13-oxa-tricyclo[7.3.1.0^{1,7}]tridecane.

38. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a 7-membered carbocyclic compound with diexomethylene groups, which comprises subjecting a trimethylsilanyl-allenol compound to an intramolecular Prins cyclization in the presence of a Lewis acid, to produce said 7-membered carbocyclic compound in a yield of at least 77%.

39. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 38, wherein the yield is at least 90%.

40. (Cancelled).